BRITISH COLUMBIA | BC Stats

Infoline

Contact: bcstats.infoline@gov.bc.ca *Issue:* 13-10 *March 11th, 2013*

- **Unemployment rate holds steady at 6.3% in February**
- **Exports climb 9.3% in January**
- **Building permits up 10.9% in January**

Labour Force

- **In February, B.C.'s unemployment rate remained the same at 6.3% (*seasonally adjusted*).** The number of persons participating in the labour force rose by 20,200, while the number employed increased by 19,800. Compared to February 2012, employment in B.C. was up by 15,400 jobs. Job growth in B.C. over the last 12 months was lower (+0.7%) than the national average (+1.9%).

  Most of the employment gains in February were in full-time employment (+13,500). A large portion of the employment gains were among the self-employed (+11,600), while among employees gains were almost entirely in the private sector (+7,800).

  Increases in employment for February were primarily concentrated in the areas outside the CMAs (+16,000) while employment also increased in the Vancouver CMA (+7,900). Employment decreased in the Victoria (-1,900), Kelowna (-1,200), and Abbotsford (-1,000) CMAs. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **In February, jobs in the goods-producing sector in B.C. were down by 2,900 (*seasonally adjusted*) compared to the previous month, with the majority of the losses in the manufacturing industry (-7,000).** The agriculture industry (+5,600) accounted for the largest gains in the goods sector, followed by the construction industry (+2,200). Compared to the same time last year, the goods-producing sector was down 6,200 jobs (-1.4%).

  Employment in the services-producing sector increased by 22,700 jobs in February relative to the previous month, with the largest gains occurring in accommodation and food services (+6,100), trade (+5,500) and finance, insurance and real estate and leasing (+5,500). Conversely, the largest losses in employment were found in professional, scientific and technical services (-1,400), and business, building and other support services (-1,100). Compared to February 2012, employment in the services sector was up 21,600 jobs (+1.2%).

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **The unemployment rate (3-month moving average, unadjusted) among B.C.'s newly arrived (less than 5 years) immigrant population was up (+1.1 percentage points) from the previous month, climbing to 13.1% in February.** This was driven by the number of unemployed increasing faster than the labour force. Compared to February 2012 (11.6%), the newly arrived immigrant population's unemployment rate was up 1.5 percentage points.

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **At the national level, employment rose by 50,700 in February.** With more people participating in the labour force in February, the unemployment rate was unchanged at 7.0%. The unemployment rate in B.C. was the 4th lowest in Canada—after Saskatchewan (3.8%), Alberta (4.5%) and Manitoba (4.9%). Among these provinces growth in employment was strongest over the last 12 months in Saskatchewan (+4.3%), followed by Alberta (+2.5%), Manitoba (+1.9%), and B.C. (+0.7%).

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **Workers in the province earned an average wage of $24.26 per hour in February, slightly higher than the national wage rate ($24.04).** Weekly wages in B.C. ($876.87) were also a shade above the Canadian average ($872.00). Older workers in B.C. earned substantially

Did you know...

Less than a quarter (24%) of working British Columbians expect to be retired by the age of 66. *Source: Ipsos Canada*

more, on average, than those in other parts of the country. Hourly wages for British Columbians aged 55 and over averaged $26.52 in October, compared to $25.70 for all Canadians in this age group. As is the case in the rest of the country, full-time workers in B.C. tend to earn substantially more on an hourly basis than do those working in part-time positions ($25.93 compared to $17.99 in February).

Data Source: Statistics Canada

The Economy

- **The value of B.C.'s commodity exports jumped 9.3% (*seasonally adjusted*) in January.** With robust growth in shipments, energy products (+40.0%) and electronic and electrical equipment and parts (+32.7%) were the largest contributors to the overall increase. The only commodity groups to see a decline in exports in January were metal and non-metallic mineral products (-11.4%) and metal ores and non-metallic minerals (-7.2%).

  Exports to both the United States (+12.4%) and the rest of the world (+6.7%) climbed in January. The rise in shipments to the U.S. was driven primarily by higher exports of forestry products and building and packaging materials (+15.0%), energy products (+36.0%), industrial machinery, equipment and parts (+23.2%) and electronic and electrical equipment and parts (+33.2%). A 42.6% surge in exports of energy products was the main driver of the jump in shipments to the rest of the world.

  Canadian exports climbed 2.1% as shipments to Japan (+1.9%), the US (+2.6%) and the European Union (+14.0) rose above December levels. *Data Source: Statistics Canada & BC Stats*

- **The value of building permits issued by B.C. municipalities increased (+10.9% *seasonally adjusted*) in January, a significant turnaround from December's pace (-12.1%).** Permits for residential projects jumped 15.7%, while permits for other types of buildings were down slightly (-1.9%). Planned spending on institutional projects surged (+92.6%), but permits for commercial (-28.3%) and industrial (-5.8%) projects were on the decline. The value of permits jumped 44.2% in Victoria, and Vancouver (+24.7%) also saw permits rise. Conversely, building intentions in Abbotsford-Mission (-14.1%) and Kelowna (-48.4%) slowed.

  The national picture was also promising, as permits increased by 1.7%, bolstered primarily by strength in Saskatchewan (+66.7%), B.C. (+10.9%) and Ontario (+2.1%). However, the overall increase was significantly tempered by slowdowns in Quebec (-13.5%) and Alberta (-5.5%). *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **In the first month of 2013, the value of building permits issued in the province's regions climbed 6.9% (*unadjusted*) above the level recorded in the same period of 2012.** Investment intentions were up in only two regions, including Mainland/Southwest (+8.1%), where most of the province's building activity occurs. Overall permits also increased in Vancouver Island/Coast (+16.8%), fuelled by surges in permits for industrial and institutional projects. Among other regions, North Coast (-72.9%), saw building intentions drop most substantially, followed by Nechako (-44.6%), Kootenay (-27.7%) and Northeast (-19.7%).

  Data Source: Statistics Canada & BC Stats

Relationships

- **In 2011, nearly two million Canadians (just over seven percent) aged 20 and over in a couple relationship lived at separate addresses.** This proportion was down slightly from 8% in 2001.

  Living in different locations did not always mean long distances. Nearly half (45%) of those in non-cohabiting relationships lived in the same neighbourhood as their partner. A further 20% lived at least a one-hour drive from their significant other, while 34% lived between 30 and 60 minutes away. Most non-cohabiting couples were young adults.

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

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For data originating from Statistics Canada, data sourced to 'Statistics Canada' has been retrieved from CANSIM, the agency's electronic database; otherwise the source is identified as 'SC' plus the catalogue number.

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BC at a glance . . .

POPULATION (thousands)	Oct 1/2012	% change on one year ago
BC	4,638.8	0.9
Canada	35,002.4	1.1
GDP and INCOME (Released Nov 19)		
(BC - at market prices)	2011	% change on one year ago
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) *($ millions)*	217,749	4.5
GDP *($ 2007 millions)*	206,180	2.8
GDP *($ 2007 per Capita)*	45,083	1.8
Household Sector Disposable Income *($ 2007 per Capita)*	26,788	0.9
TRADE ($ millions, seasonally adjusted)		% change on prev. month
Manufacturing Shipments - Dec 2012	3,149	-3.3
Merchandise Exports - Jan 2013	2,716	9.3
Retail Sales - Dec 2012	5,070	-0.9
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX	% change on	12-month avg
(all items - Jan 2013)	one year ago	% change
BC	0.3	1.0
Vancouver	0.5	1.2
Victoria	0.1	0.9
Canada	0.5	1.4
LABOUR FORCE (thousands)		
(seasonally adjusted)	Feb 2013	% change on prev. month
Jobs Created (-Lost) - BC	19.8	
Labour Force - BC	2,472.1	0.8
Employed - BC	2,317.4	0.9
Unemployed - BC	154.7	0.2
		Jan 2013
Unemployment Rate - BC *(percent)*	6.3	6.3
Unemployment Rate - Canada *(percent)*	7.0	7.0
INTEREST RATES (percent)	Mar 6/2013	Mar 7/2012
Prime Business Rate	3.00	3.00
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year	3.00	3.20
- 5 year	5.24	5.24
US-CANADA EXCHANGE RATE	Mar 6/2013	Mar 7/2012
(avg. noon spot rate) Cdn $ per US $	1.0314	0.9993
(closing rate) US $ per Cdn $	0.9695	1.0018
AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE		
(industrial aggregate - dollars)	Feb 2013	% change on one year ago
BC	876.87	1.9
Canada	872.00	1.9

SOURCES:

Population, Gross Domestic Product, Trade, Prices, Labour Force, Wage Rate } Statistics Canada

Interest Rates, Exchange Rates: Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics

For latest Weekly Financial Statistics see www.bankofcanada.ca

Provincial Electoral District Profiles 2011

Posted to our Open Data page is a 2011 Census Profile for the Provincial Electoral Districts. The file layout matches the other 2011 Profiles, simplifying comparisons to many areas . See more: http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/Census/OpenData.aspx

Population Estimates by Age and Sex 2012

Updated population estimates by age and sex for B.C. sub-provincial regions are now available. . . See more: http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/Demography/PopulationEstimates.aspx

B.C. Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector

The 2012 edition of the profile of British Columbia's fisheries and aquaculture sector is now available. See more: http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/AboutUs/News/13-01-29/British_Columbia_s_Fisheries_and_Aquaculture_Sector.aspx

Municipal Population Estimates 2012

Population estimates for B.C. municipalities and regional districts as of July 1, 2012 are now available. See more: http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/Demography/PopulationEstimates.aspx

Provincial Economic Accounts 2011

Provincial economic accounts data for 2011, including gross domestic product, are now available. . See more: http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/Economy/EconomicAccounts.aspx

Released this week by BC Stats

- Exports, January 2013
- Labour Force Statistics, February 2013
- Earnings & Employment Trends, February 2013

To Release next week

- No periodical releases

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